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# *The Connection*

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Newsletter of Shrewsbury Media Connection

Volume 19, No. 2 Summer 2006

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## **Threats to PEG Access**

By now many of you may know that Congress is preparing to rewrite the Telecommunication Act of 1996. The early stages of that rewrite began late in 2005 with several Bills introduced in the House and Senate that would change the way Telecommunication companies are allowed to do business in communities across the country.

The Telco's are lobbying hard for a National Franchise to provide video, phone and internet services. National franchising would negate municipalities from managing their own Rights of Way and could significantly alter the support that PEG Access gets from the current locally managed franchises.

One of the biggest threats to one of our basic freedoms is the stance that the majority of Congress is taking on Internet neutrality. As written these Bills could allow for the few large internet providers (phone and cable cos.) to charge for different levels of service. This would allow these internet service providers to give priority service and bandwidth to internet users that paid higher fees. Thus relegating individuals, small businesses and community organizations without deep pockets to the "side streets" of the information highway.

With the Bill that passed in the House on June 8th, the debate now switches to the Senate version. (S.2686) This will be debated through the end of June and is expected to go to vote in early July. If passed this Bill will be reconciled with the House Bill and sent to a full vote of Congress and then passed on to the President to be signed into law.

For more information on these Bills:

[www.saveaccess.org](http://www.saveaccess.org)

[www.alliancecm.org](http://www.alliancecm.org)

[www.freepress.net](http://www.freepress.net)

[www.savetheinternet.com](http://www.savetheinternet.com)

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## **SMC Staff**

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**Bill Nay - Community Programming Manager**

**Marc Serra - Access Coordinator**

**LoriAnne Bergman - SPAC TV 28 Program Coordinator**

**Liz Poplawski - SETV 29 Educational Coordinator**

**Maria Sheehan - SGTV 30 Government Coordinator**

**Paul Gustafson - Technical Coordinator**

## **PRODUCERS OF THE YEAR 2005**

The 17th Annual Producer Awards Night was held at the Hoagland-Pincus Center on April 7, 2006. SMC staff honored dozens of town residents for their contributions to the community through their programming on SPAC TV 28, SETV 29 & SGTV 30. For the first time, SMC recognized separate Producer of the Year awards to Public, Educational and Government Access producers. Congratulations Nick, Michael & Paul !

John F. McDonald received a **SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** for his dedication to excellence in producing 14 special programs for SPAC TV 28 and for being the PEG channels watchdog especially SGTV's cheerleader.

Ron DiPadua, Producer of Touring with Ron & the Old Car Club received the **SPACLE AWARD**. This fun award is for the SPAC program that was interesting, thought-provoking, eye catching, innovative and filled holes in the programming schedule.

## **High School Graduates First ACE Internship Students**



Nick Novotny, a participant in the SHS ACE Internship program recently completed an eight week internship at SMC.

Thanks to Nick many programs were completed and Nick gained valuable experience in the video production field. Nick will be attending Fitchburg State College as a film major this fall.

**replace this page with excel schedule of all 3 channels**

# Classes & Production



## 2005 P.E.G. PRODUCERS OF THE YEAR

*Nicholas J. Todisco, Jr. is the Public Access Producer of the Year for 2005* for his many contributions to our community through programming and participation particularly with youth, documenting sporting events and connecting people of all ages. In addition to volunteering on our Advisory Board and helping out on Spirit of Shrewsbury events, he produced 111 taped and 22 LIVE programs (272 hours) with his dedicated crew. This includes Coach's Corner, SHS Basketball & Football games, Good Morning Shrewsbury, Shrewsbury Yesterday and 10 specials. Nick and his "Coach's Corner" crew: Bob Bigda, Bill DeMalia, Henry Grampietro, Dennis Mastro, John Mastro & Bill Orfalea are in their seventh year of producing the show. Nick has previously won the Producer of the Year Award in 2000, 2001, 2002.

*Michael Brand is the Educational Access Producer of the Year for 2005* for his dedication to programs that highlight the Shrewsbury Public School System. He recorded and/or edited over 10 hours of programming for SETV 29. He is able to take a seed of an idea and nurture it through all phases of production. He has shown initiative by producing, shooting and editing two behind the scenes programs; one featuring the middle school musical "Bye-Bye Birdie" and the other highlighting the Exchange Teachers from China. He has also taped countless hours of middle school programs "Celebrating Our Students" and Middle School News Network Specials". It has been a pleasure working with and watching this producer and now volunteer Advisory Board Member grow and flourish with his knowledge of field production, digital editing and commitment to the philosophies of Public, Educational and Government Access.

*Paul Weaver is the Government Access Producer of the Year for 2005* for his dedication to creating and/or hosting programs on the SGTV 30. These programs have helped to highlight various aspects of local Government, critical Emergency Management Services and numerous Town Departments. He is also a dedicated volunteer for SGTV and can be found helping out at all Annual Town Meetings, Special Town Meetings and Selectmen's Roundtable shoots. Paul is also one of the newest members of the SMC Advisory Board where he continues to show his volunteer spirit and promote his belief in the philosophies of both SMC and Government Access.

## FREE CLASSES

### ORIENTATION

Interested in finding out what Public Access television is all about? Do you want to see your Public Access facility? Then, join us for a brief session that will enlighten you as to what Public Access is, what SMC has to offer, and how you can access the power of television. Orientation is required before enrolling in a SMC class. Orientations are scheduled on a one-to-one basis.

**Call Marc Serra at SMC  
(508) 841-8650**

### BASIC FIELD PRODUCTION

A comprehensive 2-session course. Training in single camera digital video production including: camera use, shooting techniques, lighting, audio and more. The course will enable participants to produce programming for cablecast on Channel 28. Orientation is a prerequisite to this class.  
**Class Dates: July 11 & 12**

### BASIC STUDIO

Introductory 4-session course on the basics of operating cameras, recording sound, technical directing, managing a production, and the use of Scala graphics in the SMC studio. You will get hands-on experience during class. This course will enable participants to produce programming for cablecast on SPAC TV 28. Orientation is a prerequisite.

**Class Dates: Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26**

### DIGITAL EDITING

3-sessions cover features of Apple's Final Cut Pro editing software. Cut and Paste video clips, add music, graphics, and transitions all in one easy to use interface.

**Class Dates: August 2, 9 & 16**

# **Shrewsbury Media Connection**

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[www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/smc/index.asp](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/smc/index.asp)

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## **Spirit of Access Award**

Robbin Miller & Sonya Perdata received SMC's Spirit of Access Award for **"Miller Chat: Olmstead"** at our annual producer awards night April 7, 2006. This award is given to the



**Robbin Miller & Sonya Perdata**

program or producer providing the greatest community service in activating support for, and making the community aware of an issue, idea or philosophy that affects this community directly.

The purpose of the Olmstead program was to educate legislators on the need for more community based services for elders and for persons with disabilities featuring these actual persons.

*(more winners inside)*

## **House Passes COPE Bill, Ignoring Public Interests**

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the COPE Act in the dead of night by a three to one margin, despite the efforts of those working in the public interest. The bill, which was largely written by the Bell Telephone companies, will fundamentally change the ability of our cities to control and be compensated for the use of public land on which the cable and internet systems depend. The Senate is working on similar legislation. Time requires that those who care about Access and the internet speak loudly to prevent the same bad legislation from passing through the Senate. Reprinted from ACM web site.  
*(more inside)*

**Alliance for Community  
Media's International  
Conference and Trade Show  
July 5th-9th  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Call SMC for more information: (508) 841-8650**



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**Mission: To build community, empower the individual, and ensure First Amendment expression through the utilization of communication technologies.**